

**IN THE ABSTRACT:**

The Abstract as amended below with a replacement Abstract shows added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~.

Please DELETE the Abstract in its entirety and substitute the attached new Abstract.

A figure selection method ~~and device of the present invention is arranged to include~~ including a retrieval ~~step~~operation of a figure element adjacent to a designated figure element, ~~in a figure selection method of selecting where a figure is formed by a plurality of figure elements. Thus, designation is automatically accomplished without designating figure elements which are adjacent to the designated figure element. The~~ According to an aspect of the present invention, the retrieval step~~operation is arranged configured~~ to retrieve a figure element in the neighborhood of ~~neighboring~~ the designated figure element. ~~Accordingly, such that the designation is automatically accomplished without individually designating each of the figure elements in the neighborhood of neighboring the designated figure element. The retrieval step is arranged to retrieve a figure element adjacent to the retrieved figure elements. By doing so, designation is automatically accomplished without designating figure elements adjacent to or in~~ 20 ~~the neighborhood of the figure elements which are adjacent to or in the neighborhood of the designated figure element. The retrieval step~~operation is arranged further configured to perform a retrieval process ~~the~~ a predetermined number of times. ~~Accordingly, such that~~ figure elements adjacent to or in the neighborhood of figure elements ~~which are adjacent to or in the neighborhood of the designated figure element,~~ are automatically designated the predetermined number of times. Further, the figure selection method of the present invention is ~~arranged to include a step~~includes of displaying the figure element ~~which has been retrieved by the retrieval step, in operation according to a style different from that of other figure elements. Therefore, and allows~~ the automatically-designated figure elements ~~can~~to be distinguished from other ~~not-designated~~ figure elements.

~~The figure selection device of the present invention is arranged to include a figure element designation unit designating a figure element, and a figure element retrieval unit retrieving a figure element adjacent to the designated figure element, in a figure selection device selecting a figure formed by a plurality of figure elements. Thus, designation can be automatically accomplished without designating figure elements adjacent to the designated figure element.~~

Further, a computer-readable storage medium of the present invention, ~~which stores a~~

figure selection program, is arranged to retrieve a figure element adjacent to the designated figure element in a storage medium storing a figure selection program for selecting a figure formed by a plurality of figure elements. Accordingly, designation ~~can be~~ is automatically accomplished without the need to individually designate ~~designating~~ figure elements adjacent to the designated figure element.